

Members

Rep. John Aguilera, Chairperson
Rep. Rich McClain
Sen. Thomas Wyss, Vice-Chairperson
Sen. Vi Simpson
Remo Mezzetta
Dr. Mary Ilu Altman
Juana Orellan Watson
Manuel Gonzales
Salvador Soto
Ronnie Cantu
Mara Candelaria Reardon
Myrna Maldonado
Rudy Lopez
Evelyn Ridley-Turner
Carmen Quintana
Sandra D. Leek
John Hamilton
Claudia Ontiveros
Carmen Natal



LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON HISPANIC/LATINO AFFAIRS

Legislative Services Agency
200 West Washington Street, Suite 301
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2789
Tel: (317) 233-0696 Fax: (317) 232-2554

LSA Staff:

Valerie Ruda, Fiscal Analyst for the Committee
Susan Montgomery, Attorney for the Committee

Authority: IC-2-5-27

MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: October 31, 2002
Meeting Time: 10:30 A.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St., 130
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 4

Members Present: Rep. John Aguilera, Chairperson; Sen. Thomas Wyss, Vice-Chairperson; Sen. Vi Simpson; Remo Mezzetta; Dr. Mary Ilu Altman; Juana Orellan Watson; Salvador Soto; Ronnie Cantu; Mara Candelaria Reardon; Rudy Lopez; Evelyn Ridley-Turner; Carmen Quintana; Sandra D. Leek (by Elvira Vasquez); John Hamilton; Claudia Ontiveros; Carmen Natal.

Members Absent: Rep. Rich McClain; Manuel Gonzales; Myrna Maldonado.

Chairperson John Aguilera called the fourth meeting of the Legislative Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs to order at 10:45 a.m..

Old Business:

Small and Minority Business

Becky Reddick, Director of the Procurement Division, Department of Administration (DOA), furnished small business related materials (Exhibit A) and explained the procurement process for vendors who wish to do business through the DOA Procurement Division. Responding to Sen. Wyss, Ms. Reddick stated that DOA offers road shows, one-on-one assistance, and training as ways to reach out to small vendors. Myra Wilson, Deputy Director, Support of the Procurement Division, stated the Division's data base has three Hispanic vendors registered,

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

and 293 Minority Business Enterprises (MBE) who have not designated their ethnicity. Ms. Reddick told Senator Simpson that a vendor may be certified as both a MBE and Women Business Enterprise (WBE), and answered Rep. Aguilera that both must be certified through Minority Business Development in order to be registered as a MBE or WBE. Ms. Reddick noted the Procurement Division is reviewing the application form to note ethnicity, if it is certified as a MBE.

Rep. Aguilera suggested the Procurement Division make a flow chart of the process vendors are to follow in order to do business through the DOA, and asked if it could be included in the Procurement Division's bid packet, which it provides to prospective vendors. Ms. Reddick stated the Procurement Division is looking for suggestions for improvement and will consider a flow chart.

Elena Looper, Deputy Commissioner of Minority Business Development (MBD), DOA, provided to the members a packet containing copies of the Proposed Rule #02-150, and additional information regarding the certification process (Exhibit B). Ms. Looper explained the DOA's certification process for MBEs and WBEs, and described the bidding system for the state, which is a low bid system. In response to a question from Carmen Natal, Ms. Looper stated that the benefit of being certified as a MBE or WBE in a low bid system is that there are small offerings where small business can be a prime bidder. Ms. Reddick informed the Commission of the state's preference for small businesses, which is provided for in statute. Ms. Wilson added that many of the prime vendors will ask the Procurement Division for MBE and WBE references not only because they say they enjoy working with those businesses, but because prime vendors also have a goal in which they must work with MBEs and WBEs.

Ms. Looper expanded on DOA's community outreach and mentioned MBD has a 1,700 piece database for mailing notices for the more than 45 road shows MBD has provided over the past five years.

In response to a question from Sen. Simpson, Ms. Looper stated that MBD receives approximately 40 to 100 applications each month, of which 98% are incomplete, and that it can take as little as 30 days for a business to be certified if the vendor provides a complete application.

Rep. Aguilera asked Ms. Looper if there is a problem with the application process since so many applications are filed incompletely, and she replied that a checklist is provided, however, some applicants do not want to provide all the information. Ms. Looper also stated that the problem in the process varies among different applicants, although many do not have appropriate financial statements to provide with the application. Salvador Soto noted that many small minority businesses are not organized enough to be able to provide the appropriate information for the application. Upon Sen. Simpson's request, Ms. Looper provided the Commission with copies of the certification application (Included in Exhibit B).

Upon request of Sen. Wyss, Susan Montgomery announced to the Commission that Salvador Soto has been named Hispanic Business Person of the Year by the Greater Fort Wayne Chamber of Commerce.

Proposed Legislation

Susan Montgomery, Attorney for the Commission, explained various preliminary drafts (PDs) related to extending the Commission's meeting opportunities and to aliens holding real property. PD 3320 proposed the Commission meet as a Legislative Commission, but at least once every calendar quarter (Exhibit C). Regarding PD 3325 proposing that the Commission become an Executive Commission (Exhibit D), rather than legislative, Sen. Simpson noted that the Commission's budget would then become a line item appropriation, making it subject to the

state's budget and Governor's approval. In response to a question from Salvador Soto, Susan Montgomery noted that PD 3325 could be amended to enable the Commission to accept gifts. With that change, Mary Ilu Altman moved to pass PD 3325, Sen. Simpson seconded the motion, and it passed 11 to zero.

Susan Montgomery presented a resolution regarding the Bureau of Motor Vehicles' hiring of bilingual staff (Exhibit E). Sen. Simpson motioned and Salvador Soto seconded the resolution. It passed 11 to zero.

Susan Montgomery presented PD 3672 regarding aliens holding real property (Exhibit F). Salvador Soto motioned and Sen. Simpson seconded the motion. The draft passed 11 to zero.

Banking and Lending

Paul Freeman, Chief Operating Officer for the Indiana Banker's Association (Association), spoke on the Association's recent attempt to assess its member on how they are addressing financial literacy (e.g. providing materials in Spanish) and on the Indiana Department of Financial Institutions' translation financial sections of Indiana statutes. He noted that many larger banks have bilingual programs and many smaller banks have bilingual staff especially in areas that have a higher concentration of Hispanics and Latinos.

In response to questions from Mr. Mezzetta, Mr. Freeman stated that the Community Reinvestment Act requires banks to make their investment choices reflect the needs of its community and that grades on banks' performances can be obtained from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). Mr. Freeman also noted that the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act requires the reporting of loans to minority groups.

New Business:

Linda Warner, Director of the Adult Education Division, Department of Education, described how the Adult Education Division (Division) operates, to whom the Division provides assistance, and the Division's educational programs. Ms. Warner pointed out that the English as a Second Language (ESL) program is one that has grown almost 90 percent in the past six years, mostly due to additional programs in rural areas, and that 89 percent of the ESL participants are Hispanic or Latino. Ms. Warner also informed the Commission of the Division's partnership with the Department of Workforce Development in providing small educational and training classes through incentive money from a Federal grant. Ms. Warner provided brochures from the Adult Education Division (Exhibit G).

Ms. Warner discussed the Plaza Comunitaria project. Ms. Altman noted that the program is taking place on the Ivy Tech campus in South Bend as a pilot program. Ms. Warner informed the Commission that the adult education project is funded by the Mexican Government, except the local community provides the teachers and building to house the project.

Mary Jane Gonzales, Indiana State Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, asked Rep. Aguilera if she could table her presentation until the next Commission meeting, and Rep. Aguilera agreed to the request.

Rep. Aguilera made final comments to the members suggesting they consider meeting informally until the next interim and adjourned the meeting at 1:15 p.m.